



Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

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Dear Colleagues,

I have a lot of information for you this time. I'll do a brief vaccine supply update, tell you about our first vaccine events open to the public (but still only for the highest risk groups) that will occur this Saturday, warn you about a potential news story, give you a heads-up about calls that you'll be getting from us, and tell you how to get info from us as this goes along.

Vaccine Supply

Since I wrote you last week, we received no allocation last Thursday, Friday, or this Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday this week, we were allowed to order a total of 46,200 doses, as shown in the table below (which shows everything right from the beginning). We don't know whether we'll be able to order any more today, or when this supply chain will become more reliable.

With this latest vaccine, we have finally begun to direct some to family practitioners. The largest 116 practices (all those who said in their enrollment that they had more than 600 pts in all high-risk categories) have vaccine on the way. Most of you have only 100 doses coming, although some of the larger practices will receive 200 or 300, all of it in multi-dose vials.

Meanwhile, small additional amounts (averaging ~200 doses each) of multi-dose vial injectable vaccine have gone to hospitals to continue vaccinating health care workers. We reserved just 300 doses of live attenuated and 300 doses of multi-dose vial vaccine for school nurses and other school health workers.

We will be sending 13,400 doses to pharmacies, primarily for health care workers who don't work in hospitals. As soon as it's in place, we'll notify the health care community to send one employee to their local retail pharmacy with a Rx for enough doses for the office staff. Still nothing yet for many private providers, none for our own immunization clinics or WIC clinics, just a dribble for health care workers, and very few of you have been ordered any resupply.

Below is the allocation chart, to date:

Date	Allocation Doses	Type
9/30/09	38,700	Live attenuated (LAIV)
10/1/09	No allocation	
10/2/09	No allocation	
10/5/09	No allocation	
10/6/09	26,100	LAIV
10/7/09	15,000	Multi-dose vials (MDV)
10/12/09	No allocation	
10/13/09	2,700 29,500	.5 ml pre-filled syringes (PFS) MDV
10/14/09	9100	LAIV
10/15/09	No allocation	
10/16/09	No Allocation	
10/19/09	No allocation	
10/20/09	9800 7800 13,400	.5 ml PFS MDV LAIV
10/21/09	15,200	MDV
10/22/09	No allocation	
Totals, to date	87,300 67,500 12,500 -0-	LAIV MDV .5 ml PFS .25 ml PFS

We do not receive confirmation of shipment or delivery, but it's a safe bet that none of what was ordered this week, and not all from last week, have yet been delivered.

Moving forward with public vaccination events

Despite the small supply, we simply must move forward with some public vaccination. No one without a provider, or anyone whose provider chose not to participate, or anyone, whose provider has not yet been supplied, has yet had any opportunity to be vaccinated. We had recently allocated vaccine to Mollen Clinics for the first school-based events, and this vaccine arrived faster than most. Thus, we had vaccine that would potentially sit for more than a week waiting for the first school events, slated to begin November 2. Adding to those small amounts that some of you have returned adds up to ~51,000 doses of mixed types.

Tomorrow (Saturday, October 24), our Maricopa County Childhood Immunization clinics and our private partners, Mollen Immunization Clinics, CIGNA Healthcare, and Scottsdale HealthCare Osborn Medical Center will be holding numerous small public clinics scattered as broadly across the county as we could arrange. Mollen Clinics has generously shared their already delivered vaccine supply with the other private partners involved, as well as agreed to host most of these sites themselves. In addition, they are gambling that we can refill their supply to start the school clinics within a week. Meanwhile, with less than a day's notice, CIGNA agreed to use some of their clinic sites and have called in staff who were not scheduled to work. And Scottsdale Health Care was the first to commit to opening a public clinic despite their limited vaccine supplies.

All told, we're going to have ~50 sites running with nearly 52,000 doses available, all of it directed toward young children < 5 yrs of age, older children with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, and those living with or caring for infants < 6 mo of age.

Wish us luck.

Anticipated Arizona Republic story

A reporter with the Republic has filed a public records request for the list of all providers in Maricopa County who enrolled to receive vaccine, what you've ordered, and what you've been allocated. If you're not familiar with public records requests, anything we have that is not legally confidential is fair game for the media to request. I will likely have to release this information later today.

I am well aware that very few of you would be comfortable having that information about your practice made public. I have had extensive conversations with the reporter about the potential damage that would result from divulging the list. Most of you ordered only enough for your own patients, and you haven't yet received enough even for them. The last thing you need is to have people "doctor shopping," jamming your phone lines looking for vaccine. Those of you who chose to prioritize your vaccine to your most vulnerable patients first are to be commended, and you don't need your other patients calling for vaccine that has already been used up.

I know (believe?) that the reporter understands these issues, and she assures me that she will not publish the entire list in print or on line. Once the paper has the list, however, they are legally free to use it however they see fit. The reporter will be calling several of you, probably both those who have received vaccine, and those who have not, seeking quotes about the process so far. You are, of course, free to say anything you want.

If I exchange any written correspondence with the paper about this, I'll copy all of you.

Calls from us

Starting next week, you'll get calls from Maricopa County Research & Reporting, asking how much vaccine you've received, how much you've used. For those of you

who didn't complete a provider agreement with the Arizona Dept of Health Services (ADHS), we've been receiving the vaccine for you and reshipping it to you. That means that we're on the hook for reporting to ADHS the statistics on whom you are vaccinating, so there are a few extra questions for you. Estimates are perfectly acceptable.

Besides required reporting, we'll use this to begin restocking some of you as soon as we can.

Getting info from us

I sincerely apologize for the extra headaches that this process has caused you. We had expected that the supply would have been smoother and made many of your questions moot. Since that's not the case, here's how to get answers from us most efficiently:

Questions re: your vaccine order or other professional questions: 602-747-7111. For your patients to call with general questions: 1-877-764-2670

I am grateful for the continued good will shown by so many of you in this response. Thank you for helping our community to weather the pandemic. As always, more info to follow.

--Bob

Bob England, MD, MPH
Director
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